

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for producing an electrically conductive connection between an electrical terminal device (104) having a cut-out, such as a cable shoe, and a sheet metal part (50), in which a hollow fastener element (10) is rotationally fixedly riveted to the sheet metal part and an electrically conductive connection is hereby produced between the fastener element and the sheet metal part and the so manufactured component assembly is subsequently provided with an electrically non-conductive or poorly-conductive protective coating (120) such as for example a paint layer or a powder coating, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
a mount (80) for the electrical terminal device (104) is formed in the region of the end face (80) of the fastener element to which the electrical terminal device (104) is attached and prevents a rotation of the terminal device relative to the fastener element (10) and the sheet metal part (50) and in that a thread forming or thread cutting screw (106) is screwed through the cut-out (110) of the electrical terminal device and into the hollow fastener element (10) and there forms or cuts a thread by the screw-in movement.
2. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the fastener element (10) is attached to the sheet metal part (50) so that it is secure against button-out.
3. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the fastener element (10) is self-piercingly attached to the sheet metal part.
4. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the mount (82) is formed by at least one projection (40, 41) which projects beyond the end face of the fastener element.

5. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with claim 3, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the fastener element is executed with two projections (40) which are formed by two lugs having a spacing from one another and which are arranged to the side of the bore of the hollow fastener element (10).
6. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with claim 3, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the projection (41) is arranged around the bore (38) of the hollow fastener element (10) and is made polygonal in its external outline.
7. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with claim 5, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the projection (41) is made one of triangular, square, hexagonal or octagonal in its external outline.
8. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the mount (80) is formed by a recess in the end face of the fastener element which merges into one or more radially extending grooves.
9. (Currently Amended) Hollow fastener element for the electrically conductive attachment of an electrical terminal device (104) such as a cable shoe, to a sheet metal part, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the hollow fastener element (10) has a head part (14) and a tubular rivet section (16), with the rivet section (16) merging via a contact surface (12) for the sheet metal part into the head part (14) and with features (30) providing security against rotation being provided at the contact surface and/or at the rivet section (16),
wherein the hollow fastener element has a bore, for example a smooth cylindrical

bore (38), at a point at which a thread is to be formed by screwing-in a thread cutting or thread forming screw (106) and in that a mount (80) for the rotationally secure attachment of the electrical connection device (104) to the fastener element is provided at the end face of head part (14) remote from the rivet section (16).

10. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim 9, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the mount (80) is formed by at least one projection (40; 41) projecting beyond the end face of the fastener element.
11. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim 9, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the fastener element (10) is executed with two projections which are formed by two lugs having a spacing from one another which are arranged to the side of the bore (38) of the hollow fastener element.
12. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim 10, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the projection (41) is arranged around the bore of the hollow fastener element and is made polygonal in its external outline.
13. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim 12, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the projection (41) is made triangular, square, hexagonal or octagonal in its external outline.
14. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim 9, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the mount (80) is formed by a recess in the end face of a fastener element which merges into one or more radially extending grooves.

15. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims 9 to 14,~~claim 9, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
a tubular guide section (18) is arranged concentric to the tubular rivet section (16) and radially inside the latter, with a ring gap (20) being provided between the guide section (18) and the rivet section (16) and with the guide section projecting beyond the free end of the rivet section.
16. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim 15, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the free end of the wall of the ring-like rivet section (16) is rounded when viewed in an axial section plane both at the radially outer side (24) and also at the radially inner side (26) and has for example a semi-circular shape or a shape resembling an arrow-tip.
17. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim 15 ~~or claim 16,~~
wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the ring gap (20) has a radial dimension in the range between 0 mm and approximately 3 mm.
18. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims 15 to 17,~~claim 15, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the ring gap (20) finishes at an axial spacing (a) before the ring-like contact surface (12) at the rivet section side of the ring-like contact surface (12).
19. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims 15 to 18,~~claim 15, wherein
~~characterized in that~~

the guide section (18) is formed as a piercing section and has a ring-like cutting edge (28) at its end remote from the contact surface (12).

20. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims 15 to 19,~~claim 15, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
features (30) providing security against rotation are disposed at at least one of ~~in~~ the region of the ring-like contact surface (12), ~~and/or at the rivet section (16) and/or at the jacket surface of the head part (14) adjacent to the contact surface (12).~~
21. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim 20, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
features (30) providing security against rotation are formed by at least one of noses and or by groove-like recesses.
22. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim 21, ~~in which~~
wherein noses (30) providing security against rotation are provided and are present in raised form at the contact surface (12) and at the rivet section (16) in the region of the transition from the contact surface to the rivet section.
23. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim 22, wherein said
~~characterized in that~~
~~the~~ noses (30) providing security against rotation extend in the radial direction at the contact surface (12) and in the axial direction at the rivet section (16).
24. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with ~~one of the claims 9 to 23,~~claim 9,
~~characterized in that~~
~~the~~ said features providing security against rotation comprise noses providing security against rotation and have one of a generally rounded shape and/or are

~~provided with~~ side flanks (32) which lie in planes extending in the longitudinal direction of the element.

25. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance ~~with one of the claims 15 to 24,~~ claim 15, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the hollow fastener element has a hollow cylindrical region (38) where the thread forming or cutting screw forms or cuts a thread cylinder said hollow cylindrical region being one of which is provided ~~either~~ in the head part (14), provided ~~or~~ in the guide section (18) and provided ~~or~~ at least partly in the head part (14) and in the guide section (18).
26. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim 25, wherein said
~~characterized in that~~
~~the~~ thread cylinder ends in the axial direction approximately at ~~a~~ the position where said the ring-like gap (20) ends ~~in front of the ring-like contact surface (18).~~
27. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim 11, wherein said
~~characterized in that~~
~~the~~ projection is formed by at least one lug and ~~in that~~ the or each lug (40) has a flank, which, on the attachment of a cable shoe, prevents rotation of the latter about the longitudinal axis (11) of the functional element (10).
28. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim ~~11 or~~ 27, wherein,
~~characterized in that~~
at the position of the or each lug (40), the jacket surface of the head part (14) has a corresponding recess (42) which, on the attachment of the functional element to a sheet metal part (50), serves as a security against rotation.
29. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims 9 to 14,~~ claim 9, wherein said

~~characterized in that~~

~~the rivet section is a piercing and riveting section, with the head part and the
piercing and riveting section being formed for example as in the RSF element of the
company Profil-Verbindungstechnik GmbH & Co. KG or as described in the
German patent specification 3446978 or 3447006.~~

30. (Currently Amended) Component assembly consisting of a sheet metal part (50) and a hollow fastener element (10) attached to it via a rivet connection, wherein the fastener element is rotationally fixedly secured to the sheet metal part by means of features (30) providing security against rotation and the fastener element and the sheet metal part are jointly coated with an electrically non-conductive or poorly conductive protective coating (120) and an electrically conductive path is provided between the fastener element and the sheet metal part at least at one of ~~in~~ the region of the rivet connection and ~~or~~ at the features providing security against rotation, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the fastener element has a smooth cylinder bore (38) for receiving a thread forming or cutting screw, and ~~in that~~ the fastener element has a mount (80) at the end face remote from the rivet connection for the rotationally secure attachment of the electrical terminal device (104).
31. (Currently Amended) Component assembly in accordance with claim 30, wherein ~~characterized in that~~
a thread cutting or forming screw (106) is screwed into the hollow fastener element (10) and holds the electrical connection device at the fastener element (10) in the manner secure against rotation.
32. (Currently Amended) Component assembly in accordance with claim 30 ~~or 31~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~
the mount (80) is formed by at least one projection (40; 41) projecting beyond the end face of the fastener element.

33. (Currently Amended) Component assembly in accordance with claim 32, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the fastener element is executed with two projections (40) which are formed by two
lugs having a spacing from one another which are disposed to the side of the hole
(38) of the hollow fastener element.
34. (Currently Amended) Component assembly in accordance with claim 32, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the projection (41) is arranged around the bore (38) of the hollow fastener element
(10) and is made polygonal in its external outline.
35. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim 34, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the projection (41) is made one of triangular, square, hexagonal and/or octagonal in
cross-section.
36. (Currently Amended) Fastener element in accordance with claim ~~31 or~~ 32, wherein
said
~~characterized in that~~
the mount (80) is formed by a recess in the end face of the fastener element which
merges into one or more radially extending grooves.
37. (New) Fastener element in accordance with claim 16, wherein said free end wall of
the ring-like rivet section has one of a semi-circular shape and a shape resembling
an arrow-tip.